

# Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581

tel: (508) 389-6360; fax: (508) 389-7891

[www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org)

## Pink Sallow Moth

*Psectraglaea carnososa*

State Status: **Special Concern**

Federal Status: None

**Description:** The Pink Sallow Moth has bright, reddish-pink forewings, solid in color except for faint yellow outlines of the reniform spot, orbicular spot, and postmedian line; the hind wings are cream-colored, shaded with pink. Wingspan is 34-38 mm.

**Habitat:** The Pink Sallow Moth inhabits sandplain pitch pine/scrub oak barrens and heathlands; it is associated with ericaceous vegetation.

**Life History:** Adult moths fly in late September and October. Eggs overwinter, hatching in the spring. Larvae feed from spring through early summer, pupating by July and diapausing until the fall. The larval host plant(s) used by this species in nature have not been conclusively documented, but lowbush blueberries (*Vaccinium*) are probable.

**Range:** The Pink Sallow Moth is endemic to northeastern North America, ranging from southern Maine west through southern Quebec and Ontario to Michigan and Wisconsin, and south to northeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Many historic populations have disappeared, and it is now rare and spottily distributed throughout this range. In Massachusetts this species occurs mainly on the southeast coastal plain, with a few additional inland populations.



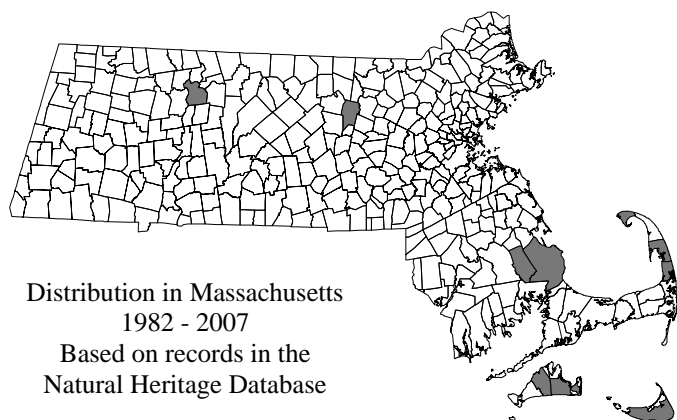
Photo by M.W. Nelson

### Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

### Threats

- Habitat loss
- Fire suppression
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Off-road vehicles
- Light pollution



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1982 - 2007

Based on records in the  
Natural Heritage Database